

Sacred Space Roll the Stone Aside

The Gospel of Matthew Series (Including John)

PREPARATION

The Lord gives both death and life;
he brings some down to the grave but raises others up. 1 Samuel 2:6

ADORATION and GRATITUDE

¹² I will fulfill my vows to you, O God, and will offer a sacrifice of thanks for your help.

¹³ **For you have rescued me from death; you have kept my feet from slipping. So now I can walk in your presence, O God, in your life-giving light.** Psalm 56

CONFESSION

² Now hear my prayer; listen to my cry.

³ **For my life is full of troubles, and death draws near.**

⁴ I am as good as dead, like a strong man with no strength left. Psalm 88

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—John 11

(Read John 11:1-45 first for context.)

²⁰ When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ “Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

...

³² When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you put him?” he asked them.

...

PRACTICE: IN SOLITUDE OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	How do I relate to this?
Respond	What is my next step of obedience?
Rest	Receive God’s healing and renewal.

³⁸ Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹ “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” ⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” ⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”

ANCHORING PRAYER “You are the Source of all life.”

REVIEW OF THE HEART

- What dark place is God calling me to come leave behind?
- When did I feel that God was not “there” for me?

WISDOM

Why does it seem incredible to any of you that God can raise the dead? Acts 26:8

In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:9

“We must meet the uncertainties of this world with the certainty of the world to come.” A.W. Tozer

TESTIMONY What is God saying to me?

INTERCESSION Prayers for the Church & One Another

CLOSING PRAYER

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

You will wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things will be gone forever.” Amen.

Revelation 21:3-4 (adapted)

SACRED SPACE EVERY DAY

Become still and quiet before God.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pray for the Sacred Space Community.

Minister from a listening heart.